

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Claim 1 (Original): An article of functional clothing, comprising:
a garment;
electrically conductive fibers integrated into the garment in a predetermined pattern to form an induction loop; and
an activator unit arranged at a predetermined location on the induction loop to establish electrical connection and activate the induction loop, and to provide an interface to at least one portable electronic device.

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Claim 2 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the garment corresponds to one of a jacket, a vest, a shirt and a pant.

Claim 3 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive fibers are sewed into the garment in the predetermined pattern to form the induction loop.

Claim 4 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive fibers correspond to conductive yarns which are either metallic coated yarns, yarns that incorporate non-conductive fibers with metallic fibers, or yarns that are showered with metallic fibers.

Claim 5 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive fibers each comprises a central metallic core composed of an electrically conductive material, and an insulative overcoat composed of an insulative material.

Claim 6 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 5, wherein the electrically conductive material contains one of a metallic material, a semi-metallic material, a semi-insulative material, a semi-conductive material, a transparent conductive material and any other fiber material that provides sufficient current to induce induction coupling between the garment and a hearing device.

Claim 7 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive fibers contain a metallic material, a semi-metallic material, a semi-insulative material, a semi-conductive material, a transparent conductive material or any other fiber material that provides sufficient current to create an electromagnetic field.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the activator unit comprises a power source; a microphone; required processor electronics, and one or more interfaces which provide appropriate connection to close the induction loop and to the at least one

portable electronic device, via either a wire/fiber transmission ~~wire/fiber~~ or a wireless transmission.

Claim 9 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 8, wherein the activator unit includes a fastening device, such as a metallic button, a pin, a snap, a hook, and a zipper with conductive teeth for data/electric connection, arranged to close the induction loop.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the garment includes a removable pocket which has required ~~fiber/wire~~ wire/fiber connectors utilized to establish connection between the activator unit and the at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 11 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the activator unit includes a zipper with conductive teeth for data/electric connection utilized to establish electrical connection between the conductive fibers forming the induction loop and to provide an interface to the at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one portable electronic device includes a mobile phone, a pager, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a tape cassette player, a compact-disc (CD) player, a MD player, a DAT player, a mini-television set, a radio, a clock/alarm, or some other similar mobile devices.

Claim 13 (Original): A process of fabricating smart clothing, comprising:
integrating electrically conductive fibers into a garment in a predetermined pattern to form an induction loop; and
forming an activator unit at a predetermined location on the induction loop to establish electrical connection and activate the induction loop, and to provide an interface to at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the garment corresponds to one of a jacket, a vest, a shirt and a pant, and wherein the electrically conductive fibers are sewed into the garment in the predetermined pattern to form the induction loop.

Claim 15 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the electrically conductive fibers each comprises a central metallic core composed of an electrically conductive material, and an insulative overcoat composed of an insulative material.

Claim 16 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the electrically conductive material contains one of a metallic material, a semi-metallic material, a semi-insulative material, a semi-conductive material, a transparent conductive material, showered pieces of metallic material and any other

fiber material that provides sufficient current to induce induction coupling between the garment and a hearing device.

Claim 17 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the electrically conductive fibers contain a metallic material, a semi-metallic material, a semi-insulative material, a semi-conductive material, a transparent conductive material, pieces of metal material or any other fiber material that provides sufficient current to create an electromagnetic field.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the activator unit comprises a power source; a microphone; required processor electronics, and one or more interfaces which provide appropriate connection to close the induction loop and to the at least one portable electronic device, via either a wire/fiber transmission ~~wire/fiber~~ or a wireless transmission.

Claim 19 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the activator unit includes a fastening device, such as a metallic button, a pin, a snap, a hook, and a zipper with conductive teeth for data/electric connection, arranged to close the induction loop.

Claim 20 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the garment includes a removable pocket which has required fiber/wire connectors utilized to establish connection between the activator unit and the at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the activator unit includes a zipper with conductive teeth for ~~data/power~~data/electric connection utilized to establish electrical connection between the conductive fibers forming the induction loop and to provide an interface to the at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 22 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the at least one portable electronic device includes a mobile phone, a pager, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a tape cassette player, a compact-disc (CD) player, a MD player, a DAT player, a mini-television set, a radio, a clock/alarm, or some other similar mobile devices.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An article of functional clothing comprising:
a garment ~~including~~having a conductive fiber integrated therein for forming an induction loop; and
an activator unit arranged to establish electrical conduction, via the induction loop, and to serve as an interface between the garment and at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 23, wherein the garment and ~~said~~the at least one portable electronic device are in electrical interface utilizing a wireless connection.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 23, wherein the electrically-conductive fiber includes a central metallic core composed of a metallic material and an insulative overcoating composed of an insulative material.

Claim 26 (Original): The article of functional clothing as claimed in claim 25, wherein the metallic material includes at least one of copper, gold, steel, iron, nickel, cobalt, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, tin, zinc, manganese, thallium, aluminum, and magnesium.

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Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~A hearing device~~An apparatus, comprising:
an inductive coil for inductively coupling the a hearing device to a garment ~~including a conductive fiber~~having conductive fibers integrated therein for forming an induction loop;

a speaker for conveying a message from at least one portable electronic device to a user of the hearing device; and

an activator unit for establishing a connection between the at least one portable electronic device and the induction loop.

Claim 28 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the conductive fibers correspond to conductive yarns that are metallic

coated yarns, yarns that incorporate non-conductive fibers with metallic fibers, or yarns that are showered with metallic fibers.

Claim 29 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the conductive fibers each comprises a central metallic core composed of an electrically conductive material, and an insulative overcoat composed of an insulative material.

Claim 30 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive material contains one of a metallic material, a semi-metallic material, a semi-insulative material, a semi-conductive material, a transparent conductive material and any other fiber material that provides sufficient current to induce induction coupling between the garment and a hearing device.

Claim 31 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the activator unit includes a zipper with conductive teeth for data/electric connection utilized to establish electrical connection between the conductive fibers forming the induction loop and to provide an interface to the at least one portable electronic device
